



July 25, 2019

Dr. Henderson Lewis, Jr. - Superintendent
NOLA Public Schools
2401 Westbend Parkway
New Orleans, LA 70114

Dear Superintendent Lewis:

On behalf of KIPP New Orleans Schools (KNOS), we are pleased to submit a letter of intent to transform John F. Kennedy High School and Pierre A. Capdau Charter School.

Since 2005, KNOS has been committed to creating academically-excellent schools and providing unlimited opportunities for the students of New Orleans. We believe in preparing and empowering all students with the knowledge and skills they need to be successful to and through college and the world beyond. We believe in creating strong schools that bring students, families, educators and community members together around one purpose – student success. Our PK-12 model is designed to build with our students as they matriculate through our schools, so that they are prepared for the rigors of their post-secondary lives. Research tells us that when students stay with KIPP from Kindergarten to 12th grade they are twice as likely to attend and complete college; this signifies the need for a robust and effective middle-to-high school pipeline.

Understanding the power of community involvement, we are grateful to have the support and partnership of the John F. Kennedy Alumni Association. Keeping the culture and traditions of these schools is extremely important to us, and we are committed to working with the alumni and other community groups to maintain and preserve that culture. We recognize the significance of building on the legacies of our schools and we are excited for the opportunity to build on the strong foundations of John F. Kennedy High School and Pierre A. Capdau Charter School. We are excited to continue the commitment that the New Beginnings Schools Foundation (NBSF) made when it envisioned a K-12 feeder and network of schools, and we believe that as a single operator working with both Kennedy and Capdau we will be able to ensure consistency for the students, families and staff at both schools.

The transformation of these schools is not something that we will take lightly. We are dedicated to providing the continuity that is required for a smooth transition, including keeping the existing student population and grade configuration. With this student-centered approach, we know that we can build upon the good things already happening in the school buildings.

Because of our dedication to the young people of this city, we are already in discussions with NBSF about partnering to provide talent, instructional and academic supports for the upcoming school year so that students can have a regular school year no matter what operator is named in the future. Our focus has been and will continue to be providing the students of New Orleans with unlimited opportunity, academically excellent schools and ultimately, a quality education.

Thank you for your consideration, and we look forward to working with the school district to find an excellent operator for these schools.

Yours in service,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rhonda Kalifey-Aluise".

Rhonda Kalifey-Aluise
Chief Executive Officer

1307 Oretha Castle Haley Blvd. | Ste. 302 | New Orleans, LA 70113 | www.kippneworleans.org